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House gang which set to work to rehabilitate so many lost souls" could do nothing for Shelburne, though an "ingenious but not wholly successful attempt to say something good for Lord Holland has recently been made". "The unscrupulous partisanship and personal rancour" of Macaulay against Croker is noted, without a reference to the reverse of that picture, Croker's attitude toward Macaulay; and "it is infinitely to Wesley's credit that he was no politician; although he had every temptation to play the democrat".

It is perhaps apparent from these scattered quotations on which side of the political arena Mr. Fletcher's sympathies lie. Yet however convinced a democrat one may be, he must be grateful, as well as sometimes amused by the pungent observations scattered by the way in this collection of biographies and appreciations. They are—an amazing thing when one considers how dull men have made such things before!—extraordinarily readable. And a picture-book which one can read is surely a prodigy. For one needs only to consider the biographies which have accompanied the portraits of other such collections to perceive that Mr. Fletcher is as much a genius in his way as Mr. Walker is in his; and that between them they have produced an extraordinarily entertaining and instructive book. And if they had done nothing else to merit the thanks of historians, they have reproduced the most amusing portrait of an historical celebrity in the world—that of Edward Gibbon. For every one says, instinctively, "Is *that* Gibbon!" And Mlle. Suzanne Curchod is finally avenged.

WILBUR C. ABBOTT.

*Palmerston and the Hungarian Revolution.* By CHARLES SPROXTON, Fellow of Peterhouse. (Cambridge: University Press. 1919. Pp. xii, 148. 7 sh. 6 d.)

THIS admirable dissertation was awarded the Prince Consort Prize in 1914. Then came the war and a scholarly career of exceptional promise was cut off. Charles Sproxtton, fellow of Peterhouse, received his first commission within a month after the declaration of war, was promoted lieutenant in 1915, and captain in 1916, was twice wounded, received the military cross for conspicuous gallantry and resource, and fell on July 19, 1917, on the western front. Mr. Temperley, who was his tutor at Peterhouse and who has written a brief and impressive biographical sketch, says that "He did not enlist, as some did, because it was a duty, but because he considered it a privilege. In his eyes the war was a holy one because a crusade against evil." Captain Sproxtton now lies in France, that holy land of our afflicted day. Modest—no one could ever get from him any account of the incident that won the military cross—shy, imaginative, religious, dreamy, and poetical, gifted with an extraordinary feeling for style, for "words which flushed and glowed", he had also the taste for historical research and the technique of the scholar, as this dissertation abundantly proves.

The monograph is based for the most part on the Foreign Office records in Chancery Lane. It sets forth freshly and succinctly England's, that is Palmerston's, policy toward the Hungarians from 1848 to 1850. The Hungarians had expected the aid of this "only Radical who had ever held a Foreign portfolio" and who so ostentatiously helped the Italians in their rebellion against Austria. But they never for a moment received it. The Italian provinces might properly be amputated, for such surgery was necessary in order "to fit Austria for her real life-work", but to make Hungary independent was to cripple Austria in its most vital organ and to that act Palmerston would be no party. Moreover he was perfectly candid and consistent in his views from first to last, and if the Hungarians deceived themselves it was, at least, not his fault. Palmerston's attitude may be easily presented by a single quotation:

Austria [he told the House of Commons] is a most important element in the balance of European power. Austria stands in the centre of Europe, a barrier against encroachment on the one side, and against invasion on the other. The political independence and liberties of Europe are bound up, in my opinion, with the maintenance and integrity of Austria, as a great European Power; and therefore anything which tends by direct or even remote contingency, to weaken and to cripple Austria, but still more to reduce her from the position of a first-rate Power to that of a secondary State, must be a great calamity to Europe, and one which every Englishman ought to deprecate, and to try to prevent.

Palmerston told a representative of the Hungarian government, whom he received unofficially, that if Austria "did not already exist, it would have to be invented; that it was a European necessity, and the natural ally of England in the East; he therefore counselled us to reconcile ourselves with Austria, because in the frame of the European State-system it would be impossible to replace Austria by small states".

Captain Sproxton's book is an amplification of and comment upon these opinions of Palmerston as applied to the diplomacy of the period. It is an instructive and interesting study, excellent in form and substance, keen and sure in criticism, and piquant in many of its observations and reflections.

CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN.

*Gambetta.* Par PAUL DESCHANEL. (Paris: Librairie Hachette. 1919. Pp. 302.)

IF Gibbon was correct in thinking that his brief service as captain of the Hampshire grenadiers was of direct, professional advantage to the historian of the Roman Empire, much more obviously would the author of this life of Gambetta be justified, should he ever take to writing his memoirs, in alluding to the character of his career as qualifying him,